

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 4, 2009

Secretary Kathleen Sebelius
United States Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

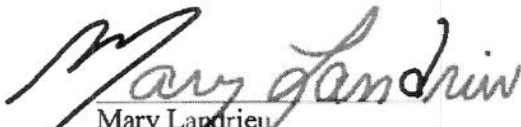
Dear Secretary Sebelius:

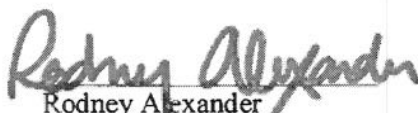
We write to you today to follow up on an April 9 letter to your office from Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals Secretary Alan Levine regarding potential reductions to Louisiana's Medicaid Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP).


While many states will face challenges to their Medicaid programs in the coming years, we believe that Louisiana's case is unique. As you may be aware, our state is still rebuilding from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 as well as Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in 2008, including the rehabilitation of the healthcare system in the New Orleans area. These extensive recovery efforts have inflated Louisiana's per capita income, but were only temporary and do not accurately reflect the increases to incomes in industries not related to hurricane recovery.

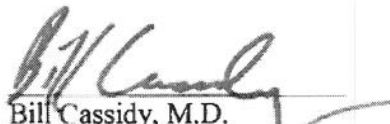
Since the FMAP formula uses per capita income to calculate how much each state will receive in Medicaid funding, we are greatly concerned that the post-hurricane per capita income increases could significantly impact our state's FMAP allocation. We ask that you meet with Secretary Levine to develop a solution to the unique problem that is facing our state.

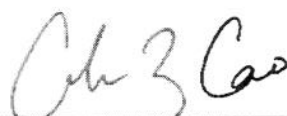
Sincerely,



Mary Landrieu
United States Senator



Rodney Alexander
Member of Congress

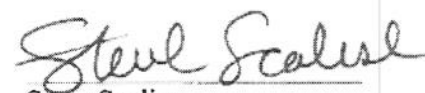

Charlie Melancon
Member of Congress

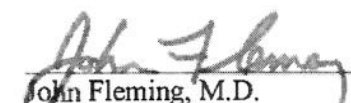

Bill Cassidy, M.D.
Member of Congress


Anh "Joseph" Cao
Member of Congress


David Vitter
United States Senator


Charles Boustany, M.D.
Member of Congress


Steve Scalise
Member of Congress


John Fleming, M.D.
Member of Congress